

00885

1972/01/12

PRIVACY CHANNEL TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE January 12, 1972

ACTION: THE WHITE HOUSE 0010

EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY FOR HENRY A. KISSINGER FROM BUNKER

REFS: A) Your letter of January 1, 1972 with enclosure.

B) WHS 2002.

C) SAIGON 0009.

D) WHS 2003.

1. Thank you for answers to questions raised by Thieu (ref D).

All seemed to be satisfactory to him with the exception of the provision in paragraph 3 of the proposal for the adoption of "a foreign policy of neutrality".

2. He explained that in the 1954 Geneva Agreement (respect for which is provided for in paragraph 4 of the proposal) the word neutrality is not used although the substance is spelled out in concrete form. In other words, the content of neutrality does not give him trouble, it is the connotation which is attached to it here which presents a problem. He has made it clear in rejecting neutrality for South Viet-Nam that his objection is to the communist concept which differs from that of the free world. He, therefore, feels that we should define more fully what we mean by neutrality so that the Vietnamese will have a clear definition of what is meant when we use the word. Otherwise, Thieu feels he will have great

difficulty with it.

AMB:EBunker:ek
1/12/72.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By KSH, NARA, Date 6/2/99

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3. With regard to the form in which the proposal would be presented (2b, Saigon 0009), Thieu suggested that we should say that the proposal is not completely new, that several months ago we agreed to present the proposal privately, that this was done, that there has been no response to it from the other side and consequently we wish to present this openly and lay it on the conference table as an indication of our honest and sincere desire for meaningful negotiations.
4. Thieu said that it was also very important how he presented the proposal to his own people. He feels it is essential he should also make an address to the nation, mentioning that several months ago he agreed with the President to present the proposal privately to the other side, that as there has been no response both Presidents have agreed it should be made public with the new dates.
5. Concerning the form of the proposal, Thieu suggested that it might be set up in a more chronological and logical sequence. I am not very clear what he has in mind about this, but think he means setting it up perhaps in order in which the steps will be taken. A point he apparently has in mind is to distinguish it from other proposals so that it may be referred to as our 8 point or 10 point proposal.
6. Thieu said that he wanted to give the matter further study,

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especially in regard to the way in which he should handle it here and wished to see me again on Friday to go over it once more. I believe it would be helpful also if we can give him some outline of the contents of the President's speech. I think Thieu is pretty well on board, but that he will need help on the neutrality point.

7. Warm regards.

BUNKER

EB



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Planned for Declassification on 10/1/2000